THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. apart from dealing with distribution the Act also deals with matters such as production supply made and commerce etc. of the essential commodities.

(c) For any infraction of Government guidelines and orders, action is taken as per extant disciplinary rules as applicable to the official.

Incurring Losses in Super Bazar

3317. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH:
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
CHAUDHARY CHUNNI LAL:
SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Super Bazar has been incurring losses of worth several crores of rupees for the past three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the said period, year-wise;

(c) if so, the resons therefor and action taken to rectify the situation;

(d) whether allegations of corruption and irregularities in its functioning have been made by the workers union in the past;

(e) if so, what action was taken in this regard;

(f) whether Government have recently launched a drive to make public distribution more people-oriented; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) and (b) The Super Bazar has informed than it is running in losses for the last three years. The position of the losses is as under:—

Year	(Rs. in lakhs)
1997-98	(-) 321.33 (Audited)
1998-99	(-) 706.80 (-do-)
1999-2000	(-) 1365.00 (Unaudited)

(c) The losses in Super Bazar are *inter-alia* due to over staffing in comparison to the volume of business, inadequacy of working capital compared to the requirements, lack of credit based supplies, non-recovery of outstandings, increasing level of fixed costs and for age bills as well as lack of professionalisation in supervision and management Super Bazar has taken certain corrective measures to reduce the expenditure and increase the income of the store. The payment of overtime allowance, hard duty allowances and other fixed allowances have been stopped. Purchase of vehicles, furniture and other equipments as well as expenditure on newspapers, entertainment, use of taxies etc, have been stopped. To avoid any blockage of funds a policy of payment to the suppliers after realisation has been adopted and unviable branches of Super Bazar are likely to be closed.

(d) and (e) The Super Bazar workers unions have been submitting representations to Super Bazar Management regarding alleged corruptions and irregularities in its functioning. Super Bazar has reported that their Vigilance Department has investigated various allegations of corruption/irregularities and taken appropriate action. Irregularities committed by its former Chairman and other employees are being investigated by CBI.

(f) and (g) The Government of India has launched a Sarvpriya Scheme in July 2000 which envisages distribution of 11 selected commodities of daily use namely Arhar Dal, Gram Dal, Malka Red, Urad Whole, Salt, Tea, toilet Soap, Detergent Cake, Exercise Notebooks, Edible Oil and Tooth Past in suitable consumer packs through existing outlets of Public Distribution System. The National Cooperative Consumers Federation of India Ltd (NCCE) is the nodal agency to implement the Scheme. The State Food and Civil Supplies Departments would make necessary arrangements for the distribution of these items.

Procedure to Debar the Income Tax payers from PDS

3318. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFARIS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that those who paid income tax for 1999-2000 have been denied ration from PDS shops w.e.f. 1st July, 2000;

(b) if so, whether among those who are not required to pay income tax on their income for the year 2000-2001 will automatically become entitled for ration from DPS shops; and